



MELISSA RUSHING / KNIGHT SCROLL

# School gains two distinctive student-driven clubs this year

Domenica Gilbert  
Maggie Lawler

Although philosophy and world languages may seem daunting to many, two new student clubs have proven otherwise. Agora and the Foreign Language Club have made these somewhat intimidating subjects approachable.

Agora, the new philosophy club, is a relatively new group that was started by students. It was formed to give students an opportunity to control what they learn and to give their opinions on current subjects.

“It is a place for us to sit down and talk about whatever is on our minds,” said senior Cole Heisey, a founding member of the group.

He, along with seniors Dustin Vognild and Patrick Linsenmeyer, came up with the idea of Agora. Senior Trevor Watson created the name Agora.

“We pursue knowledge, wisdom and insight,” said Mr. Matthew Schaefer, adviser of the group. “What I would like to see is that students begin to better formulate their thoughts, are able to think and truly pursue what is good, true and beautiful.”

At the end of a meeting, students choose a subject that will be discussed the following week. However, if students bring up a current event, that is discussed as well. Meetings are held weekly on Thursdays from seven to around nine. The club originally met in Campus Ministry but has outgrown that room. It now meets in Schaefer’s room.

Agora traces its history to early Greece. “Agora” means a meeting place in the center of the city or a place to debate.

Although Agora is not perfect right now, the group hopes that it will continue to grow and change.

“It is my personal hope that through this, we can change the hearts and minds of many people,” said Schaefer. “We should strive for this perfection.”

Along with the recent addition of Agora, O’Gorman has also started another new club. Frau Andrea McKenzie and Olga Zamulko head the Foreign Language Club.

“I think that it’s important for people to know a little bit about other cultures,” said Zamulko. “This group is a fun way to experience another way of life.”

At their meetings, students are taught a little of the country of the night’s culture. This includes food, movies, games and even some of the language. As of now, there has only been one meeting. However the club hopes to eventually have meetings weekly on Tuesday nights. This is not a membership only type of club and students are not asked to attend every night.

The South Dakota School for the Deaf is targeted in state-wide budget cuts.

# S.D. State Fair, Arts Council, School for the Deaf to close doors

Tanya Kapoor  
Melissa Rushing

Although South Dakota has low unemployment and a seemingly strong economy, the nationwide recession and a limited state budget are still forcing the state to close the doors of the School for the Deaf, the Arts Council and the State Fair.

“I have lived in Sioux Falls for 34 years, and this is the most significant downward cycle I have seen,” said State Senate Majority Leader Dave Knudson (R-Sioux Falls). “Companies



Rep. Martha Vanderlinde

have announced layoffs, and we [South Dakota] have seldom experienced job loss.”

The announcement of the budget cuts and the effect of the recession are shocking, given the economic accomplishments of the state. On Jan. 24 of this year, CareerBuilder.com compiled a list of the American cities with the lowest rates of unemployment. Sioux Falls was ranked third in the nation at 2.5 percent, and Rapid City was ranked eleventh at 2.8 percent.

A low rate of unemployment is only one of the hallmarks of a strong economy. From July 2004 to July 2005, Lincoln County was the nineteenth fastest growing county in the nation.

Despite all these impressive accomplishments, the people will lose many state-funded programs. In order to balance the budget as required by the South Dakota Constitution, Gov. Mike Rounds plans to cut more programs than just the School for the Deaf, the Arts Council and the State Fair. Other major programs receiving cuts are the Autism Grant Program and the Birth to Three Program, a special program that provides therapy

for young children with disabilities.

“Studies have shown if there is early intervention with the Birth to Three Program, autism symptoms sometimes go away. It helps because the right people are stimulating these brains,” said State Representative Martha Vanderlinde (D-Sioux Falls). “The brain grows the most from birth to three. It is like a sponge; it absorbs everything. Studies have shown over and over that if you have this stimulus, you will have better outcomes.”

In addition to Birth to Three, the Governor has proposed education cuts to school districts with sharply increasing and sharply decreasing enrollments and school districts with large geographic areas and few students. He has proposed eliminating extra money provided in the past through a special program for teachers.

“If the state is getting no more than a zero percent of an increase and is going backwards in revenue, K-12 education should also have a zero percent increase in per pupil amounts,” said Knudson. “Everyone should

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# Empty Bowls inspires service, raises money for community

Shilpa Chandran  
Opinion Editor

The O’Gorman community did its part in making sure that no one in Sioux Falls has to go to bed hungry when it hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Empty Bowls soup supper.

“It’s a good way for the school to come together,” said senior Nolan Cleary. “It finds a way to incorporate every part of the O’Gorman community.”

Empty Bowls, which was held on Feb. 26, is an annual Lenten soup supper that benefits the poor

and homeless in Sioux Falls. This fundraiser has taken place since 1999. Claire vanBrandwijk, the Campus Minister at that time and founder of Empty Bowls, desired to create an event that would directly help the less fortunate in Sioux Falls.

“She wanted to involve every member of the O’Gorman community and local businesses,” said Ms. Jennifer Moser, O’Gorman’s current Campus Minister.

Indeed, the dream she had years ago is still continuing strong today.

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SHILPA CHANDRAN / KNIGHT SCROLL

Volunteers serve hungry eaters during Empty Bowls.



# Letter from the editor

Tanya Kapoor  
Editor-in-Chief

Giving is even more important during Lent. The Church teaches us that we need to offer more than just a simple contribution. Also, our experiences have taught us that we can only truly serve if we give of ourselves, our talents and our time. This year, other charities and organizations also value this multi-dimensional view of service. *The Knight Scroll* compiled a list of the top seven organizations that deserve each individual's talents and time this year.

None of the groups listed below requires a monetary contribution; many have "take action" centers on their Web sites. Also, each organization depends on human beings to serve. This year's list is very diverse: it promotes causes—such as education or protecting our earth—that should capture everyone's interest.

7) Sierra Club Foundation—The Foundation relies on individuals to get involved in order to fulfill the mission of a "healthy and safe" environment. Despite that, the Foundation spends a considerable amount of donation money for fundraising expenses, the cost of



publicity needed for donations.

6) National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) – The NRDC allows individuals to promote good stewardship of the earth. Interested individuals can write letters to elected officials. The major drawback of this charity is the president's salary, which is more than \$300,000.

5) Jane Goodall Institute—When first formed, this organization's purpose was animal protection. The focus is broader now, and the institute teaches individuals how to make an environmental impact simply in their daily lives. The group, though, spends too much money for fundraising expenses.

4) Amnesty International—This

world-renowned organization relies on more than just a simple donation. The Amnesty International Web Site allows individuals to personally petition world leaders to make humane decisions. The current chief executive only receives a five-figure salary, but fundraising expenses run high.

3) The Greenpeace Fund – Although this organization is sometimes criticized, Greenpeace allows students to organize through Facebook. The management only earns five-figure salaries. The Fund, however, spends 15% of revenue on fundraising costs.

2) Books for Africa – This charity seeks to "end the book famine in Africa." There are limited volunteer opportunities. Despite that, the organization is still efficient and has an exemplary goal.

1) Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) – The number one charity seeks to "feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit." FMSC allows churches and schools to hand-pack meals. Even though it is one of the fastest growing charities, FMSC is efficient and does not spend too much donation money on executive salaries.

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share equally in the state government's difficulties."

"Government growth has gone up 5.6% within the last two years while education funding only goes up 3% each year. I think government growth should be the same as education funding. Many people look to education as an expense, but I look at it as investment [in our youth]," said Vanderlinde. "The Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota said that if you invest in education, your return is 16 times greater than what you put in because you have educated people. You decrease crime, drug use and unplanned pregnancies. South Dakota, compared to North Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska, has the highest number of people in prison. One of the reasons is because we do not value education. We have to invest in our children or we are just going to lose the battle."

Along with education funding, the School for the Deaf will also close. Although the School's campus in Sioux Falls will close, the School will continue to have outreach programs available. Currently, 37 students attend the campus in Sioux Falls while 388 students use outreach programs in

their respective school districts.

"The School for the Deaf has been completely excluded from the budget. The total funding has been cut. We can modify or downsize the School, but we do not have to close it," said Vanderlinde. "The Deaf have their own community, their own culture, and you cannot take that culture away from them."

"There has been no plan to take care of the students from the Governor," said Knudson. "The original plan was to transfer the students to the Sioux Falls School District but that is not fair to either the students or the Sioux Falls School District."

Besides the students, the closing of the School for the Deaf would impact 22 employees.

"Some of these [22 employees] could be rehired for the School's expanded mission of outreach education and support," said Dr. Janelle Toman, Director of Information and Institutional Research at the SD Board of Regents. "Most of these employees do have particular skills that would also be in demand by local school districts and other special education service providers."

Furthermore, the Governor plans to cut the South Dakota Arts Council. The Council provides

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**Editorial Policy**  
All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O'Gorman faculty, administration or the *Knight Scroll*.

# Quotes of the Month

"I love going to the dentist."

"The weight of this crisis will not determine the destiny of this nation."

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."

"Dōmo arigatō, Mr. Roboto."

"This award would have humbly validated Heath's quiet determination to be accepted by you all here - his peers within an industry he loved."

"We are the facilitators of our own creative evolution."

Mr. Van Engen; Barack Obama; Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Kunoio Kato in his Oscar acceptance speech; Kim Ledger; Bill Hicks



KNIGHT SCROLL

St. Katharine Drexel founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People.

## Saint Katharine Drexel used inheritance to help others

Maegen Lipetzky  
Faith Co-Editor

The Pennsylvania native used her inheritance to benefit the minorities of our country. Saint Katharine Drexel was born in Pennsylvania on Nov. 26, 1858 into a family of wealthy bankers.

While she was traveling around the country, her eyes were opened to the troubles and difficulties that Native Americans and African American had to overcome.

Because of her father's death, Drexel inherited an immense fortune. She used this money

to help others. Drexel wanted to push her charitable acts even further.

She proposed to Pope Leo XIII that a religious organization should be founded to run the organizations she had established. Pope Leo XIII's answer to her request was for her to become a missionary herself.

In 1889, Drexel started her missionary training with the Sisters of Mercy at Pittsburgh.

Finally Drexel, with the assistance of a few companions, founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians

and Colored People. During her ministries, approximately 60 schools were opened. Among these was Xavier University in New Orleans, which is the first institution of its kind for African Americans in the United States.

Drexel died on March 3, 1935 in Cornwell Heights, Pennsylvania. She was 96 years old and had led a fulfilling life.

Her beatification occurred on Jan. 26, 1987 when Pope John Paul II declared her Venerable. On Nov. 20 1988, Pope John Paul II named her Saint Katharine Drexel.

## Bowls

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Partially because of the growth of O'Gorman, even more students are participating and even more companies are donating their goods.

This year, eight restaurants contributed soup, five contributed bread, two contributed drinks, and the Catholic Foundation of Eastern South Dakota contributed napkins.

Panera Bread had a raffle with gift certificates. The winner received one free loaf of bread each month for a year.

Usually, restaurants continue donating the same amount of the same food as they have done in the past. There is the occasional change, though.

"Spezia's was really generous this year," said Cleary. "They're donating double what they usually give."

Various items of pottery are

also sold at this charity event. The vacant bowls symbolize the many hungry people that live in our society.

Mr. Gary Siska, art teacher at O'Gorman, is proud of his involvement in this fundraiser. With the help of an alumnus, Steven Schilling, Siska makes and

**"[Making the bowls] is kind of an artistic mission for me. It's my way of saying thanks to [God] and having an outreach to others."**

- Mr. Gary Siska

donates the pottery sold at Empty Bowls.

"It's kind of an artistic mission for me," said Siska. "I feel my artistic ability is a gift from God. It's my way of saying thanks to Him and having an outreach to others."

This fundraiser benefits three main charities: the St. Francis House, Good Shepherd's Center and Food Pantry.

The money made is always split equally between the three charities.

Last year, \$2,800 was raised. In the past, the amount has been as high as \$3,500. Approximately 500 people come, and that number fluctuates as high as 700.

"It's hard to predict how many people will come," said Moser. "It typically depends on other activities and weather."

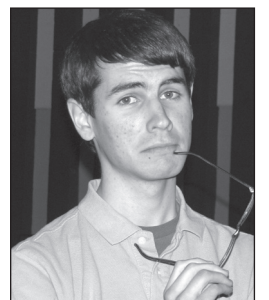
This year's fundraiser raised around \$2,700, and the number of people served was 476.

However, there may be a small alteration regarding the delivery of the profits this time as compared to previous years.

"We are thinking of having the students themselves go and deliver the money we raise," said Cleary. "It is cool to get a first hand look at who we're helping."

## We should glorify God with abilities, talents in our everyday life

Joe Scholten  
Guest Columnist



By the time this article is published, the O'G Interp team will have competed at the NFL qualifier tournament. Held at Lincoln High School, this is the team's most important tournament of the year, determining which students will go on to the national tournament this summer.

We have been preparing for this tournament for months. At times, it is all I can think about. The desire to go to nationals is a strong driving force for every member of the team.

On the surface, this would seem to be a positive motivation. We hear time and time again that to become great at anything, we must "want it badly enough".

Wanting things badly has a dark side however. When our want becomes an obsession, we run into difficulties. Every time I have become obsessed with succeeding at interp tournaments just for the sake of succeeding, I end up unhappy. The problem is that it is quite easy to make trophies and success our highest goals, rather than using them as a means to an end.

I do not mean that succeeding is a bad thing. It can be great, provided we are using our talents to thank and glorify God. Trying to succeed in interp for interp's sake will do me no good in the end. However, performing well becomes a gift back to God if I choose to offer Him all my successes and failures.

So how can we students, interpers, athletes, dancers, gymnasts, cheerleaders, debaters, band geeks and choir kids offer our activities to our Father rather than lusting after success? I believe the answer consists of two parts.

The first part is simply prayer-prayer on a daily basis and prayer before our activities. It is a great habit to make a morning offering. This is a short prayer you can make before your feet touch the floor each morning. In it, give to God your day and all that you will do. It gives the day and all activities during that day a much higher purpose. When we are about to compete or perform, we can also offer up a quick prayer to lift up to God whatever we are going to do.

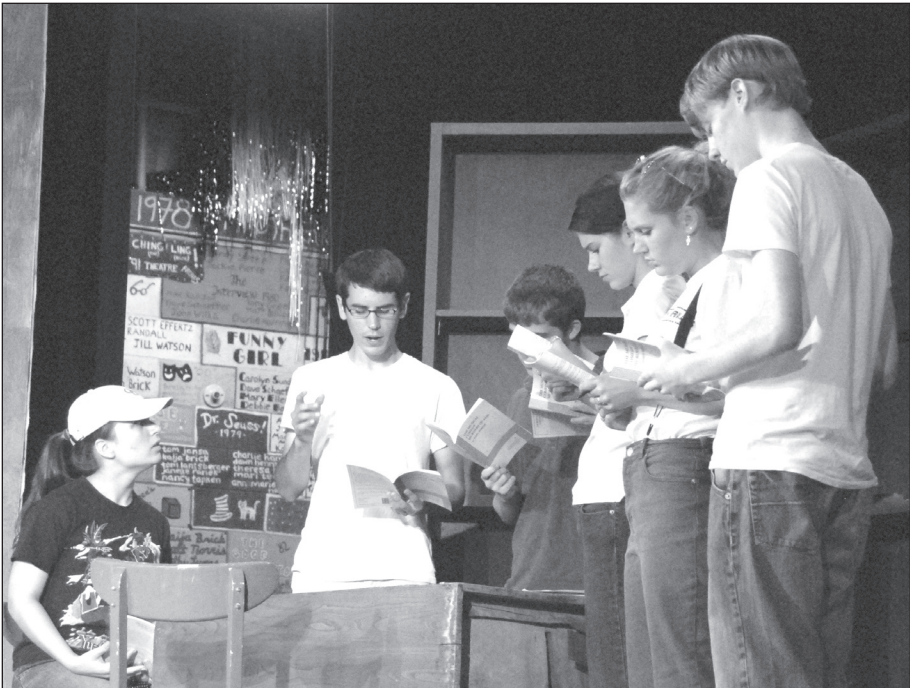
The second part of seeking God's glory rather than our own success has to do with our mindset. When we practice and when we perform, we should be giving our all. However, our activity should not become our all. Rather, we ought to constantly remind ourselves why we do what we do. Yes, we love our activities and want to do well. But our ultimate goal should be to glorify God with all the abilities He has given us.

The NFL qualifier has been on my mind a lot lately. Yes, I hope to qualify for nationals. It is important to remember, however, that our ultimate calling is not to perform well but to love as much as we can. That is the kind of success that will not cease with our last interp round, basketball game, or marching band competition. In loving everyone (yes, even our competition), I believe we will find the greatest victory of all.

## Do you have a faith story?

**The Knight Scroll  
invites you to share your  
own faith story by sending  
it to [ogscroll@gmail.com](mailto:ogscroll@gmail.com)**





KNIGHT SCROLL

A LOOK BACK. It's been a busy year for O'Gorman activities. (Top Left) Marching band members compete at a competition. (Top Right) Students rehearse for *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. (Bottom Left) Fellowship of Christian Athlete members meet up for a monthly meeting. (Bottom Middle) Rocket Team members test one of their rockets. (Bottom Right) Caitlin Woodard acts in the One Act play *Forecast*.

# Liturgical Drama stops performing at school, area parishes during Lent

Performances stopped to preserve the continuity of the Mass

Domenica Gilbert  
Becky Jarding

The parishes in Sioux Falls will be much quieter this Lent. This year, the O'Gorman Liturgical Drama reached the end of its course. What used to be an organization that brought a new perspective to the Gospel has been faced with the question of whether or not it still fits into the Mass.

"It was a beautiful gift, but it was time to try another way," said Sister Kathryn Easley, chair of the theology department.

Liturgical Drama was a performance in which students acted out a scene to enlighten the audience on some aspect relevant to a certain Church season. It was a different approach to learning and understanding the liturgy.

"The problem was that it didn't fit into the liturgical Mass," said Sister Kathryn. "Through the years, priests have kept the parts of Mass as pure as possible."

At first the performances were done at the end of Mass, making it too long. However, putting the performance in place of the homily took away from the Gospel's message.

Sister Kathryn also said that the priests sometimes build on the homilies from week to week, especially during Advent and Lent. When such a homily is replaced by Liturgical Drama, it can lose the continuity of its message.

"Liturgical Drama started as a way to get kids involved in parishes and thank

"I will miss performing a further representation of the Good News, but I will definitely also miss the delectable egg bakes we had each Sunday morning."

- Katie Ridder

parishioners for supporting the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools," said Mr. Kevin Humke, coordinator of liturgical drama. "There are quite a few students that are disappointed. It was another outlet or activity for talented students not in plays or choir."

Although there is some disappointment

over Liturgical Drama being cancelled, most students understand that there is good reasoning behind the decision.

"Though it is one less thing off my plate, Liturgical Drama was always a great event during Mass to enhance the Gospel," said junior Liturgical Drama member Katie Ridder. "The thing is, though, that many a time our drama would take the place of the Homily, which is not good. Of course I will miss performing a further representation of the Good News, but I will definitely also miss the delectable egg bakes we had each Sunday morning."

However, some hope still remains for Liturgical Drama. According to Humke, he, Principal Mr. Kyle Groos, and Sister Kathryn plan on meeting and reevaluating the program. According to Sister Kathryn, they are working on a solution. The priests have encouraged them to find a different way for youth to get involved in their parishes.

Although Liturgical Drama has been cancelled for now, there are alternatives being discussed. One considered alternative is possibly going to Sioux Falls Catholic elementary schools during Advent and Lent and performing there.

# TATU shows ambition, lobbies for ban at state Capitol

Chris Oligmueller  
Staff Writer

For one day, students went out to Pierre to stand up for their rights to a smoke free environment.

On Feb. 9, a few members of the O'Gorman (Teens Against Tobacco Use) group, along with many other South Dakota TATU groups, went to help convince the Legislature why the South Dakota community should be smoke free.

"We went out to Pierre to explain why a smoke-free South Dakota is important," said Ms. Sabrina Raugutt, a two year group adviser that attended the event.

At the event, the group had an opportunity to experience state politics by listening to some sessions and to a speaker on tobacco issues and topics.

The State Legislature proposed a smoking ban bill, SB83, which would ban smoking in most public places except in hotel rooms. It unanimously went through the State House but was then halted by the State Senate with a vote of 17 to 18. The Senate stopped the bill because it believed that the state was not ready for a smoke-free community yet.



## Oral interp team qualifies four for national tournament

Christina Engeman  
Faith Co-Editor

After an exhausting weekend, the debate and oral interp teams showed great effort. The Interp team qualified in four of the eight spots for Nationals this summer.

In Oratory, Maggie Lawler placed second, Nick Sideras placed fifth, and Teresa Johnson placed sixth. In Duo, Whitney Hartzell and Tyler Jacobsen placed fourth and Maggie Lawler and Jordan Heisler placed sixth. In Humor Hartzell placed second, Jacobsen third, and Rachael Andersen placed fifth. In Drama Shilpa Chandran placed third, Maryclaire Costello placed fifth and Joe Scholten placed sixth.

Four of the Interp team members qualified for Nationals in Birmingham, Alabama on June 13-20. Chandran qualified in Drama by default, as did Jacobsen in Humor. Hartzell qualified in Humor and Lawler qualified in Oratory.

Although no one qualified in debate, several students performed quite well.

Peter Meyer and Conner Sea placed fifth in public forum and had a record of 3-2. Tanya Kapoor advanced to the fifth round of Lincoln Douglas. She had a record of 3-2.

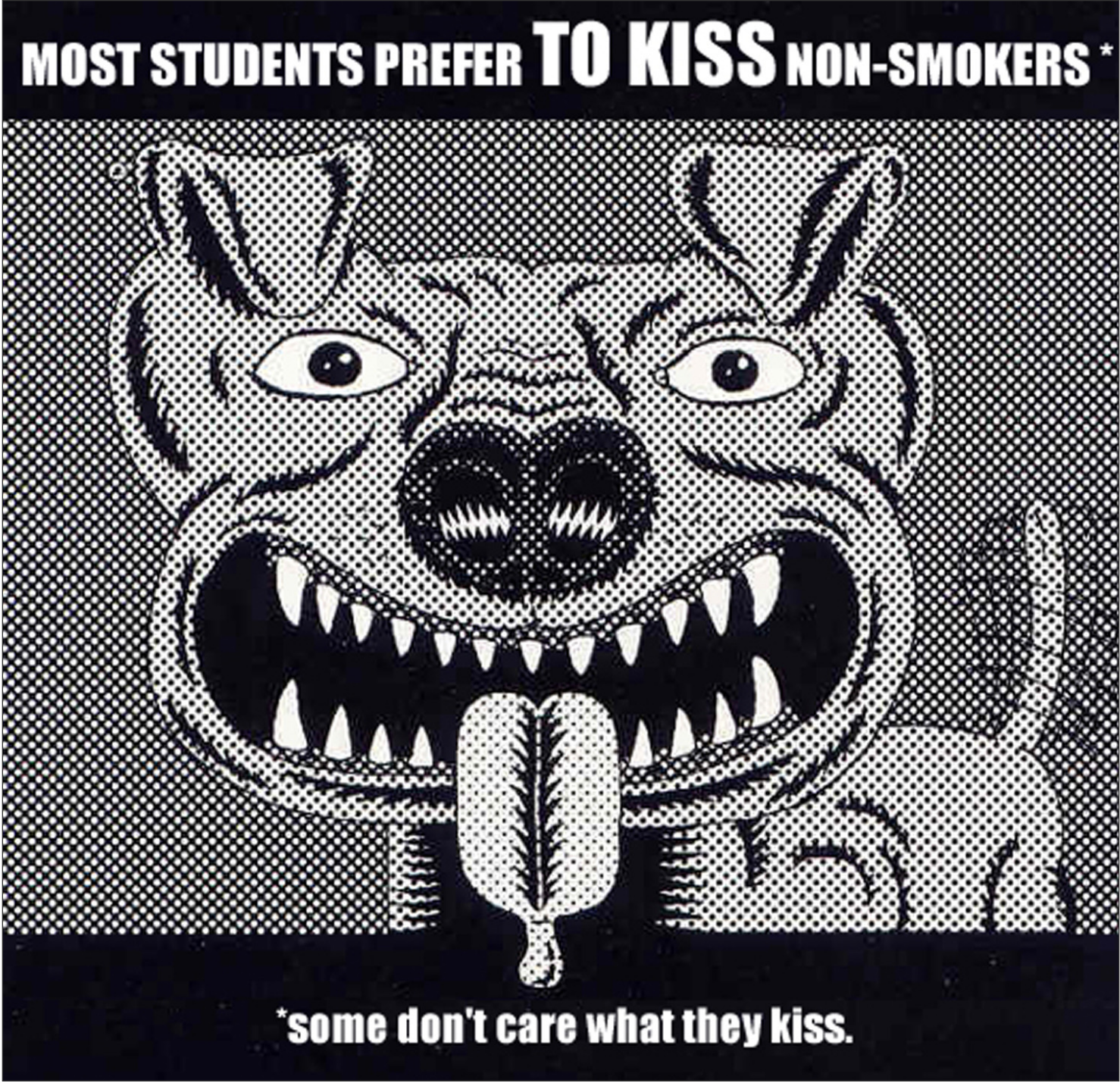
Additionally, Seniors Patrick Linsenmeyer and Cole Heisey advanced to the fifth round of Public Forum Debate.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Oral Interp team members competed at the NFL qualifying tournament.

O'GORMAN TATU





## Frisbee golf back in style this spring

Adam Wilka  
Entertainment Co-Editor

Frisbee golf is not so much a sport as it is a tradition. Although it can be played competitively, most frisbee golfers rarely bother to keep score.

Many, such as O’Gorman senior Peter Meyer, view the dawning of the season as a sign of the coming freedom of summer.

“You have no idea how good it feels to be out here again,” said Meyer.

“Here” refers to Tut Hill Park, just off of Cliff Avenue.

The park was still in the thawing process, and some of the holes were buried in snow. Despite that, Meyer and fellow senior Gabe Oland were not the only ones who played during the first semi warm day of the season.

Oland was not the only person wearing shorts, either. Such a phenomenon did not surprise him.

“It doesn’t matter what the weather is actually like as long as we can get to most of the holes,” said Oland. “Disc is more about the idea of summer, not the weather.”

According to Oland the hardcore participants only refer to the game as ‘Disc’.

“Frisbee Golf is the name of a junior high gym game,” said Oland. “Disc is its true name.”



KNIGHT SCROLL

The Snow Fox swim team members placed first in the state swimming meet.

## SnowFox Swim Team captures another state swimming title

Jameson Goetz  
Sports Co-Editor

The SnowFox Swim Team proved once again that there should be no uncertainty regarding their status as the top swim team in South Dakota. The team won its seventh consecutive state title at the 2009 State Swimming Meet.

O’Gorman students who competed in the meet included Maggie Lawler, Catie Yokan, Zach Johnson, Jordan Meyer, Kara Lawler, Jody Boldt, Brittany Dardis, Kelsey Kirby, Mitchell Moe, Marie Yokan, Dane Washenberger, Beth Honner, David Saavedra and Brittane Nelson.

With all the successes the SnowFox Swim Team has achieved in the past years, one would think that hunger for more success would be something hard to find.

“We continue to work hard

because even with our past success, we, as a team, still have many goals to work for,” said SnowFox Swim Team coach Mr. Chad Thomsen. “That is the beautiful thing about sports; you can always look forward to achieving the next level of success.”

Although they have defeated their competition in recent years with apparent ease, the swimmers of the swim team have recently found opposition in their pursuit of success. However, this opposition has not come from the swimmers of other teams but from the difficulty in finding a facility in which to practice. This difficulty has come about because this year’s team has grown to 156 swimmers.

“The number one struggle for all swim teams is the fact that they all need a lot of pool space to train in,” said Thomsen.

This winter, the YWCA downtown has partnered up with

SnowFox, which has given the team a home pool for training.

“The lanes are still very crowded, but the quality of training has still remained very high,” Thomson said before the meet. “We always make the best of our training situations and we are going to have a great state meet this year because of it.”

Competitive swimming still remains in obscurity in the arena of South Dakota sports. Thomsen hopes that the rising popularity of competitive swimming around the United States will resonate with growth of the sport in South Dakota.

“I would love to see the sport of swimming become a school-sanctioned activity,” said Thomsen. “High school sports are a great way to build school unity and pride, and I also think that the swimmers themselves would benefit”



ADAM WILKA / KNIGHT SCROLL

Joe Schaeffer goes for a shot in a recent Y-ball game.

## Teamwork inspires senior boys to play ball

Adam Wilka  
Entertainment Co-Editor

When Andrew Deal steps on to the court, it is as if R. Kelly’s “World’s Greatest” has been brought to life.

With his slight stature and unorthodox style, one would not expect to see him playing high school basketball.

Deal is one of many excellent non-school basketball players heralding from the White and Blue. These basketball players are known as Y-Ball players.

“When I’m out there playing Y-ball, I feel like I can make it to the NBA,” said Deal. “It is a way to keep the dream alive.”

Admittedly, this is not the only appeal that the league holds for players.

According to Deal, another bonus is the chance to show off his ability on the court.

Also, like other athletes, Y-ball players have some goals as well as fears.

“My biggest fear is that I will let the team down,” said Deal. “These guys are like my brothers.”

## Gymnastics team captures third place in state tournament

Jameson Goetz  
Sports Co-Editor

The Lady Knights Gymnastics team vaulted into the state’s elite at the state meet in Rapid City. After starting the season by defeating the state’s premiere gymnastics teams (Mitchell, Watertown, and Lincoln) at the Sioux Falls Invitational, the varsity gymnastics team, which includes Hannah Statz, Josie Heisel, Natalie Ray, Taylor Kelsey, Kelsey Thorton, Abby Thuringer and Brittanie Vernard, had high hopes for the rest of the season.

“The past three years we have finished fifth at the state meet,”

said Statz, who is a senior and a five-year varsity gymnast. “With new talent and yet only seven girls on the varsity team, we knew that if we worked hard, a third place finish was not out of reach this year.”

Few people involved with South Dakota Gymnastics expected O’Gorman to break into the top three at the state meet. However, at the 2009 State Meet in Rapid City, the Lady Knights Gymnastics team achieved that feat.

The Knights barely defeated the team from Sioux Falls Lincoln in the team standings by a score of 141.793 to 141.460 to place among the top three teams at the

state meet. Lincoln, along with Watertown and Mitchell, were considered pre-season favorites for the 2009 state title. Watertown and Mitchell placed first and second, respectively, in the team competition.

Freshman Josie Heisel placed third and Statz placed sixth in the individual all-around competition. Because of their success in the all-around competition, Heisel and Statz were rewarded with spots on the ten-person All-Tournament Team.

“I could not have asked for a better turnout,” said Statz. “I am so proud of our team, and I am really going to miss the girls.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sophomore Natalie Ray performs her routine on the balance beam.



# Spring sports set goals for upcoming season

Matt Entringer  
Sports Co-Editor

## Track

Last year, the track team blew by the competition like Usain Bolt in the 100-meter dash. The Knights are coming off a solid effort from last year when they placed tenth in the state for class 11 AA.

"Our teams were very competitive at last year's state meet," said Mr. Doug Lindner, the head track and field coach. "We had a record number of state place winners in our girls and boys teams last spring."

O'Gorman has lost some key components from last year's team, but a slew of new talent has entered the Knights' realm.

With contributions coming from all areas of the track team, this Knight's team could be one of the most successful in the state.

"Because track has so many events to fill, you need solid contributions from a variety of kids," said Lindner. "Sprints, jumps, weights and distance all play a part. With 19 total events with entries of three per event, you need solid contributions from everyone on the team."

While runners and throwers are obviously important to the success of the track season, so are the coaches who lead them. With numerous years of experience, the coaching staff has instilled a rigorous work ethic that is visible during meets.

"Success comes at a high price," said senior thrower Dan Oswald. "If you are not

willing to sacrifice your time and talent for the team, then you are not willing to win."

The Knights open their season on March 23.

## Baseball

If there is a reason to be optimistic about this year's club, it is due to the outstanding play of this year's senior class.

This senior class has been a solid contributor to the Knights' success these past few years.

"Playing together the last four years has really brought us closer as a group," said first baseman/pitcher Danny Hughes. "We all play summer ball, and that really helps us get in top shape when school baseball rolls around."

One thing that has helped fuel the success of the baseball program is solid leadership.

While this year's Knights have been solid contributors, they have also had a chance to learn from veteran players along the way.

"When you get the opportunity to learn from veteran players, it really helps you pick up your game as a player," said outfielder/pitcher Chris Ridl. "It helps to be a student of the game. If you are always learning, then you are always improving."

Coaching the Knights this year is John Ratzloff. A long time Washington Warriors assistant, Ratzloff takes over coaching duties for a talented team with high expectations.

The Knights open up their season on April 2 against Sioux Falls Washington.

"We have to get off to a good start," said Hughes. "It is a lot easier to go undefeated if you don't lose your first game."

## Girls Golf

Since the start of the decade, the girls golf team has proven itself as recurring contenders for the state title.

The girls golf team has finished second the past two years and has been a viable threat to Brookings' monopoly on the state title. Last year, the Knights finished only 23 strokes behind a Brookings team that has won state six out of the last seven years.

"We worked very hard throughout the season, and to finish where we did was great," said Molly Donohue, who finished tenth in the state tournament last year. "It was upsetting to finish second, though, because we always go into a meet or tournament wanting to win."

The Knights certainly have to be considered one of the favorites this year with



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Senior Chris Ridl pitches during baseball practice.

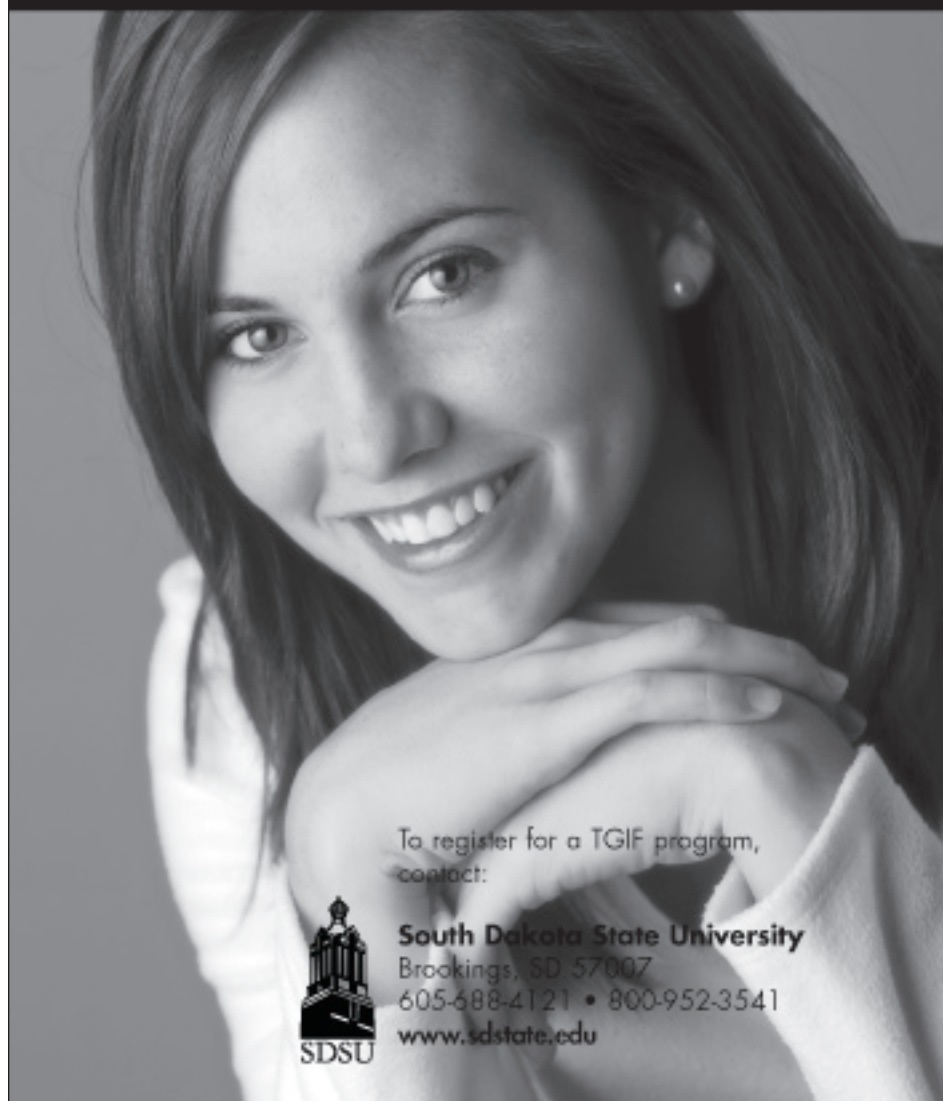
a majority of their talented team coming back.

The Knights may have a young team but it is certainly an experienced one.

"We only lost one of our top players

See Spring page 8

# TGIF Visit Day at SDSU



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# It's back: Indie Film Fest returns to O'Gorman this spring

Jordan Heisler  
Entertainment Co-Editor

After four years of retirement, one of O'Gorman's favorite traditions will return. The Indie Film Festival will come alive, once again offering students of all grades to bring their movie making talents to the big screen (the auditorium big screen, that is).

"As a freshman, I remember the Indie Film Fest as a great experience," said senior Connor Sea. "It was disappointing that it was discontinued over the last few years, but when it was requested by a group of students we were glad to bring it back."

The Indie Film Festival is a Student Council sponsored event in which students bring in movies that they have directed and starred

"It was disappointing that [Indie Film Fest] was discontinued, but when it was requested by a group of students we were glad to bring it back."

- Connor Sea

in to present to an audience of other students.

After all of the movies are shown, the audience will vote for its favorite movies. The movies with the most votes will receive fabulous prizes that are yet to be announced.

There are, however, some restrictions to the competition. The maximum

length of movies is yet to be announced by Student Council, and no student can enter more than one movie. Also, any film deemed inappropriate will not be shown.

The incentives for all self-entitled student directors are a chance at a prize and, more importantly, bragging rights. The event is set tentatively for Apr. 7.



PRESS PHOTO

Robert Downey, Jr. (left) and Jamie Foxx star in *The Soloist*, set to premiere April 24.

## Post-Oscar releases start season off with a bang

Melissa Rushing  
Assistant Editor

With the curtains of Oscar season now closed, it is time for a parade of spring movie entertainment to take center stage. For your outing-planning convenience, here is a list of what most to look forward to on the big screen during March and April.

Leading the pack is *Watchmen* on March 6, which should do well after *Ironman* proved in summer 2008 that there is still a huge market interest for comic-based films.

Those who grew up watching The Disney Channel will of course remember *Witch Mountain*. Disney director Andy Fickman plans to remake the sorta-scary classic with original stars Kim Richards and Ike Eisemann. *Race to Witch Mountain* plans to premiere March 13.

Also on March 13 comes the light comedy *Sunshine Cleaning* with Amy Adams, Emily Blunt and Alan Arkin. Cleaning stars Adams as a single mom who enters the biohazard removal field as a way to send her son to private school. For that kind of work, I hope it is

a Blue Ribbon School.

The first true drama of the spring season is *Sin Noble* on March 20. The winner of two Sundance Awards about Hondurans crossing the U.S. border in search of better lives will hopefully float in face of expected political criticism.

*Superbad* fans rejoice! Director Greg Mottola teams with stars Jesse Eisenberg, Kirsten Stewart (*Twilight*) and Ryan Reynolds (*Definitely, Maybe*) for *Adventureland* on March 20, a similar comedy to *Superbad* about amusement park workers in 1987.

Also on March 20 comes DreamWork's sure-to-be block buster, *Monsters vs. Aliens*. The 3D film features an all-star crew of Reese Witherspoon, Rainn Wilson, Hugh Laurie, Seth Rogen, Will Arnett, Keifer Sutherland, Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Kimmel to voice the monsters and aliens.

A month after *Witch Mountain*, on Apr. 10, comes another Disney Pictures film (this one not a classic), *Hannah Montana: The Movie*.

Also on the tenth is *Observe and Report*, a creepishly similar comedy to *Paul Blart: Mall Cop* with Kevin

James. *Report* stars Seth Rogen as a mall security gaurd. *Blart* has, as of late February, netted \$121.3 million since its release in mid-January and it's curious if *Report* will fare similarly so soon after *Blart*.

Again during the week of Apr. 10 on a more serious "thriller" note, is *Case 39* starring Renee Zellwiger as a case worker.

Finishing off the month of April are two dramas which should dwarf their April predessors. *State of Play* and *The Soloist* premiere on April 17 and 24, respectively.

Albeit in the same genre as *Case 39*, *State of Play* has the upside of a cast of Ben Affleck, Russel Crowe and Hellen Mirren in this political conspiracy thriller.

*The Soloist*, with Robert Downey, Jr., and Jamie Foxx, comes to theaters after two release delays (original date was Nov. 21, 2008 which became March 13, 2009, and is now Apr. 24). The film, directed by Joe Wright (*Atonement*) is based on a true story about Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez (Downey, Jr.) and homeless Juliard trained musician, Nathaniel Ayres (Foxx).

## Authenticity, flavor mix quite enjoyably at Pho Quynh restuarant

Maggie Lawler  
Jordan Heisler

From the outside there is not much about Pho Quynh that would catch the attention of the common passerby.

This locally owned establishment located in an old downtown building appears to be nearly falling apart.

We were slightly skeptical about the potential of the restaurant in which we were about to eat. By the end of the meal, not only were we completely humbled but we were also full to bursting.

Upon entering the restaurant we were greeted by our waitress and a small child who, without speaking a word of English, kept us entertained while we were waiting for our food to be prepared.

We were the only people dining at the restaurant at that time so the waitress took extra measures to make sure we were in a comfortable atmosphere.

We started off our meal with an appetizer of fried pork egg rolls. They were incredibly delicious, and we both agreed that they were the

best we had ever had.

There was an incredible selection of entrees on the menu, all in Vietnamese with a brief English explanation. Our food was freshly prepared in less than fifteen minutes.

We ordered two different meals, Bun Tom Bo Cha Gio, which was rice vermicelli with shrimp, beef and egg rolls. It came with a sweet sauce that was wonderful.

Our other meal was the Hu Tieu Do Bien, which was a Seafood glass-noodle soup. It was also very delicious.

At our table there was a bottle of traditional Chile sauce that is a very common condiment with their food.

However, we were unaware of how spicy this was, and we could not understand the warnings in Vietnamese to "use sparingly."

Overall, we were very impressed with the quality of the meal and service we received.

To anyone looking for an authentic Vietnamese dining experience, we would highly recommend Pho Quynh.

## Spring

Continued from page 7

from last year," said Donohue. "So we will basically have the same team. We may be a young team, but in golf it does not matter your age; it is how you play as a team.

The Knights have solid leadership in all forms this year. The Lady Knights return four out of their top five finishers from last year's state meet. They also have an experienced leader in Mr. Rod Garrison who will coach the Knights again this year.

The Knights tee off their season on March 27 in West Central.

### Tennis

The O'Gorman Knights Boys

Tennis Team is looking to derail Rapid City Stevens' attempt at a fourth straight state title. After finishing second to Rapid City Stevens at each of the last three state tournaments, the Knights are looking to win their first state title since 2005.

"We definitely feel like this is our year to win," said junior tennis player Kevin Rance. "We have been so close to winning in the past years so we really hope we can get the job done this year."

Returnees from last years varsity team include: senior Jameson Goetz, junior Kevin Rance, sophomores Brad Entwistle and Elliot Czarnecki, and freshmen Brian Billion and Anthony Rauschenbauch.



## Culinary genius savors teaching

Maggie Lawler  
Staff Writer

Although many people consider her as “the teacher who sounds exactly like Julia Roberts,” it is apparent there is much more to Mrs. Angela Lynch than her star-like qualities.

Lynch grew up in Volga, South Dakota. She graduated from O’Gorman High School in 1997.

“I was involved in about everything in high school,” said Lynch. “I was very involved in musicals, track, gymnastics, volleyball and choir.”

Lynch finished her degree in dietetics at South Dakota State University. She later went on to receive her Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Sioux Falls. Lynch has taught at O’Gorman for five years. She teaches Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles, Food and Culture, Single Living and Mastery and Explorations of Reading.

“I feel that her classes teach very important life skills that are guaranteed to help me through college and the rest of my life,” said senior Tyler Jacobsen, a student in Lynch’s Single Living class.

A memorable moment for Lynch was on a day when Principal Mr. Kyle Groos was sitting in on her class.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Mrs. Lynch has taught at O’Gorman for five years.

Lynch was explaining how some foods, such as raw eggs, can cause diarrhea. However, Lynch felt rather awkward when asked to explain what diarrhea was to new exchange student Ivo Dobrovodsky.

Lynch said that one of her favorite parts about her career is hearing from and meeting with former students.

“One of my long term goals for the Single Living class is to be able to take them to local restaurants and

introduce the students to different foods and cultures,” said Lynch.

Besides her busy life at O’Gorman, Lynch also has her hands full at home. Lynch is blessed with three daughters, Sydney, Ryen, and Emerson. Lynch married a Roosevelt graduate who coincidentally wrestled her brother in high school. “Yes, I did marry a Rough Rider,” says Lynch, “but don’t worry, I converted him.”

## Pop-punk band Blink-182 reunites after four years

Zach Dresch  
Design Editor

What people thought might never happen has inevitably happened. The inevitable turned out to be the announcement of the reunion of pop-punk band Blink-182.

The band officially announced it was back together during a live telecast of the Grammy Awards in early February.

“We used to play music together, and we decided we are going to play music together again,” said Travis Barker during the Grammy Awards telecast.

The band plans to record a new album and start a full-fledged tour this summer. They also confirmed the reunion through a blog on their official site and MySpace.

“This isn’t a temporary thing,” said Blink bassist Mark Hoppus in an interview with the Alternative Press. “We are not even calling it a reunion. It’s more of a continuation.”

The band had been split up since early 2005 due to tensions rising between band members. Guitarist Tom DeLonge went on to form alternative rock band Angels & Airwaves and Hoppus formed the band +44 with drummer Travis Barker, a band that explores similar styles in the same vein as Blink-182.

Travis Barker was severely burned last September as a result from a plane crash that killed four and injured Barker and DJ AM, whom Barker had been collaborating with the past few years.

Barker was wearing an arm sling during the Grammy Awards telecast because he had recently undergone surgery for extensive nerve damage, possibly due to the plane crash.

Mark Hoppus posted a blog about it a couple of months after the incident, also giving hints that Blink might reunite by stating the trio have been talking again.

“We are just reconnecting as friends after four years of not talking,” said Hoppus. “It is a good thing.”

The band states the incident inspired the band to reconnect.

“I think when Travis had the event happen to him it was something that pulled us back together,” said Tom DeLonge in an interview with Extra. “We always knew it was inevitable.”

## Fray delivers solid piano-rock style in new album

Zach Dresch  
Design Editor

Playing it safe never hurt anyone, and that is what The Fray aims to do in the self-titled follow-up to 2005’s *How To Save A Life*.

Since its mainstream breakthrough with successful songs such as “Over My Head (Cable Car)” and “How To Save A Life,” The Fray has won over millions of fans with its piano-rock bliss.

With this new album, millions of fans are guaranteed to stay. This album sounds exactly like *How To Save A Life*, with little change in musical direction.

However, the songs still sound great. The songs on this album are not as attention grabbing, but they will grow over time with repeated listens.

The main highlight on the album is the first single “You Found Me,” which is mainly about why bad things happen to good people and the problem of evil. “I found God on the corner of First and Amistad / Where the

west was all but won” sets up the whole tone of what lead singer Isaac Slade was going for in the hit song.

Other highlights on the album include “Absolute,” which is an upbeat guitar-driven song that could potentially be the next hit in The Fray catalogue. Opening track “Syndicate” is also enjoyable with its 6/4 tempo that is another step in The Fray’s musical direction that could go full-force on their next album.

The largest example of musical diversity on the album is the song “We Build Then We Break,” which is a funky beat never heard on an album by The Fray before.

That track is the most obvious example of the band attempting to make a more ambitious direction in their music. I am really hoping they bring in something outlandish for the next record, like an accordion or a glockenspiel.

“Never Say Never” is a piano ballad that



PRESS PHOTO

The Fray’s new album debuted at number one on the Billboard charts.

See Fray page 10



Photo Survey

What is the best excuse you’ve ever used for not doing homework?



Brody Allen  
“I killed a man.”



Alyson Spencer  
“I was on a date with Miles.”



Ian Williams  
“I passed out from my pain medication.”



Katie Raaen  
“I was shaving my brother’s chest hair.”

Juniors and seniors desire open campus year round

Becky Jarding  
Matt Entringer

Having attended O’Gorman for four years, it is safe to say we are very different from the other Sioux Falls High Schools. Along with the perks of Mass and daily prayer come the issues of uniforms and restrictions in matters such as open campus. Public school students in Sioux Falls receive open campus for both their junior and senior year. O’Gorman senior students are only given the privilege for their last nine weeks of senior year, while juniors receive open campus during magazine sales only. Open campus should be a year round privilege granted to both juniors and seniors.

The administration has set up clear reasons for allowing students the privilege of open campus.

“The reason we have open campus is to make the transition to college easier for students by giving them some freedom during their last weeks in school,” said Principal Mr. Kyle Groos. “It is an incentive for students to maintain good grades because

you must have a 2.0 grade point average and be passing all classes in order to receive open campus.”

One certainly can’t argue with that logic, especially since O’Gorman has been a top 50 Catholic high school the last three years. However, there is certainly room for improvement upon this subject.

If it prepares students for college, then why not acclimate students to the college environment as soon as possible. It only stands to reason that the sooner you can experience a situation, the more familiar you will be with that situation.

Open campus could serve as a better incentive if the students had it year round, because that way they would be more concerned with their grades first semester as well as second semester. If students received open campus year round there would be that extra incentive to study for a little bit longer or pay attention a little bit more in order to receive open campus privileges.

While open campus may not seem like a major issue due to the fact that it only involves seniors, it

could potentially affect everyone. If seniors and potentially juniors were gone from lunch then there would be a shorter lunch line and more food available. While seniors and juniors wouldn’t eat out everyday, it would certainly shave off the food budget at O’Gorman. If 376 students were gone from lunch it would save the school over 50% in the cost of food it now spends on students.

In addition to saving school lunch costs it would also allow seniors and juniors to refrain from going to study halls as well. This would allow teachers to teach more classes and the school could potentially offer a wider variety of classes. It would not eliminate study halls altogether but would reduce the number of study halls needed.

By allowing students to go off campus for lunch it would permit the school to put the extra money saved on food towards things like teacher salaries or the addition of the new performing arts center. In the end this isn’t just a senior issue but a school issue.

Letter to the Editor

It has come to my attention, as of late, that the school’s effort to recycle is not quite up to par.

This situation became more evident to me after returning from Presidents’ break. On that Tuesday, our school staff provided only plastic utensils and styrofoam plates for those who ate lunch.

Although there is a large probability of a broken dishwasher to account for the absence of the usual metal utensils and washable trays, there was nothing to account for the absence of proper waste disposals.

The recycling bins that should have replaced the garbage receptacles were tucked away in their usual corner. Besides being virtually inaccessible, the recycling bins also lack a convenient hole in the top that would allow an easier opportunity to recycle.

As I glanced in the trash I saw that besides the plastic water

bottles, discarded by lazy students, were enormous amounts of plastic and styrofoam. I then began to contemplate the hypocrisy that lay before me.

Teachers in our social studies and sciences classes continue to teach the damaging effects of not recycling, and yet in a different part of the building we find ourselves to be the cause of the problem.

Not only is recycling part of our civic duty to the environment, but if our school became part of the newly founded recycling program in Sioux Falls, we would be rewarded for our efforts. This would create the perfect solution, helping both our consciences and our school.

If the school truly practiced what it preached I would have not encountered the atrocity I witnessed in the lunchroom.

Taylor Reaves  
Junior

Fray  
Continued from page 9

could potentially be the next single with its catchiness and spirit that would make the Goo Goo Dolls say, “Man, I wish I wrote that song.” “Where The Story Ends” and “Enough For Now” are other songs that consist of a great piano part that is incredibly catchy, and would be perfect for adult contemporary radio.

“Say When” is a good example of Isaac Slade’s attempt to sing in a higher octave than he usually does. It does sound great, but it’s not my favorite song on the album. Guitarist Joe King provides the

lead vocals for the song “Ungodly Hour”, which is a gentle and quiet ballad that would be nice to fall asleep to. The final track “Happiness” even includes a choir, which is a nice touch to the final song on the album.

Overall, if people loved the piano-rock sounds of How To Save A Life and they do not want those sounds to change, this would be the ultimate album for those people. However, if you’re looking for something other than the simple piano-rock sounds that How To Save A Life brought, this album is not for you. It’s still a great album, but it could have been so much more.

The Fray

Overall Grade: B-  
Key Tracks:

“You Found Me”  
“Never Say Never”  
“Enough For Now”

In - and - Out

Neon

Pastels

Blink 182

U2

Flip-flops

Boots

Nalgene bottles

Bottled water

Junior Open Campus

Senior-only Open Campus

O-wing

Old G-wing

Leprechauns

Cupid



Budget  
Continued from page 2

funding to aspiring artists and art education in schools. Cutting the Arts Council could also impact the amount of federal stimulus money the state would receive.

“The arts are the fabric of our life, and it would be detrimental to cut this program. I am vehemently in favor of saving the arts. It is not one of those programs you can cut and still be a cultured people,” said Vanderlinde. “Each day, I get 100 emails about the state budget’s cuts, and 25 of them say, ‘Save the arts.’”

The State Fair has also been a key to South Dakota’s culture. The state does not own the land for the State Fair in Huron.

Thus, if the State Fair is stopped, then the land goes back to the heirs of the Chicago Northwest Railroad Company, the original owners.

“The State Fair represents history. In 1905, it was a traveling fair. It has been held in 1918 when there was an influenza pandemic and during the Great Depression,” said Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Mr. George Williams. “The Governor and his wife are supporters of the State Fair. They are there every year. There groups in and outside the state that are concerned about the cuts. We are working to find an alternative funding source.”

The Department of Agriculture and the Democratic Caucus in the Legislature are proposing different methods to fund programs that could potentially be cut or have their funding reduced.

The Democrats’ methods involve borrowing money from the tourism department or enacting the seat-belt law, which would make not wearing a seat belt a primary offense.

“People are not going to travel here during bad economic times. If we borrow \$2 million from the tourism department, we could easily fund the Birth to Three Program,” said Vanderlinde. “Also, if we enact the seat belt law—so that they can stop you for not having a seat belt on—we will get \$5.6 million from the federal government. That runs out this year. After this year, we can no longer get that funding.”

Also, according to recent salary information, many state employees in South Dakota make six figure salaries. State Senate Minority Leader Scott Heidepriem (D-Sioux

Falls), therefore, said that he has supported an 80% reduction in the salary increase for state employees. The Democrats have also suggested a 5% cut in pay for state legislators and similar cuts for state employees and state lobbyists in Washington, D.C.

Some Republicans, in turn, claim that Democrats want to raise taxes in order to keep programs and balance the budget. The only possible way that they see these programs surviving would be through higher fees aimed at the general public.

“I have supported an across-the-board cut for state government, excluding K-12 education and Medicaid. This would save us about \$10.5 million,” said Heidepriem. “The program cuts I have outlined would balance the budget without increasing taxes. We do this by cutting the budget across the board and [by] building in new revenue from gaming, including Deadwood and video lottery.”

The final possible way to generate revenue would be to sell state planes. South Dakota currently has 13 airplanes for the state government’s use while Minnesota has two and Nebraska has only one. The Governor can use three of the thirteen airplanes.

“Only the Governor knows why he tried to balance the budget on the backs of our state’s most vulnerable citizens,” said Heidepriem. “Honestly, what does the state need: three big airplanes or a program that helps disabled children? Most South Dakotans would answer that question differently than the Governor.”

The legislators found out about the proposed cuts in the state budget at the same time that the general public did. The Governor stressed that he had to make important decisions when he planned the budget.

“[Our goals when planning a state budget are] to ensure that South Dakotans get the programs and services they need and to be frugal in doing so. After all, taxpayers are footing the bill,” said the Governor’s Press Secretary Mr. Joe Kafka. “Cuts must be made, and the governor and his budget staff had to prioritize spending. All of those programs are good, but the state must assure there’s enough money for essential services, such as education, taking care of the needy and protecting the public.”

“[When the Governor explained the cuts,] he started off by saying that our job according to the Constitution of South Dakota is to protect the poor, to protect

the most vulnerable, to educate and to keep people safe. But when the funding came out, that is exactly where he cut,” said Vanderlinde. “He came in the next week and called the legislators ‘gutless’, and that did not do anything to create a good liaison between the Legislature and the Governor. It left us as the bad guys when he is the one that made the cuts.”

The major reason Governor Rounds decided to cut certain programs was lagging revenue.

“Gov. Mike Rounds has stressed that it’s important to fix the current problem



Sen. John Thune

of incoming revenues failing to keep up with increased spending,” said Kafka. “The current recession is so severe that state revenues are coming in at nowhere the pace that was predicted when last year’s state budget was formed.”

“There is so much doom and gloom talk, but it should be noted, overall, that our revenues are slightly ahead than those one year ago,” said Vanderlinde. “The revenues are lagging behind projected revenues, but actually, from last year, they are ahead of revenues.”

The revenue for Fiscal Year 2009, which begins on July 1, is \$689 million compared to \$685 million for Fiscal Year 2008. Projected revenues for 2009, however, were \$713 million.

Many also hope that the recently passed federal stimulus package will give money to help the state budget. The stimulus bill, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will offer \$182 million in highway projects throughout the state. According to the Department of Transportation, the stimulus can potentially create or save 10,000 jobs, 90% of which are in the private sector.

“The stimulus package provides money for shovel-ready projects. These projects are already approved and ready-to-go,” said Ms. Julianne Fisher, Communications Director for Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD). “With the bill, the idea is if you put someone to work on a new roadway, for example, he can pay his bills, get new tires, take his family out to dinner. The bill has a trickle-down effect. The economy is helped, and the community gains a new roadway.”

“I believe that this recovery and reinvestment package takes the steps that are necessary to stimulate our economy immediately and strengthen it in the future,” said Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD). “The bill we are considering has many good provisions and will provide a real boost to South Dakota by creating jobs and cutting taxes.”

Others claim that the stimulus package is full of spending. Such examples listed on Sen. John Thune’s (R-SD) Web site include \$2.5 billion to turn federal buildings into “green” buildings, \$300 million for new cars (hybrid Toyota Priuses) for government workers and \$850 million in new subsidies for Amtrak.

“I do not believe the [stimulus] bill focuses enough on creating jobs and rather spends far too much borrowed money on programs that are not targeted at creating good jobs or stimulating the economy,” said Thune. “I am not willing to support borrowing over \$1 trillion from our children and grandchildren for something that I do not believe will work.”

The expected job growth from the stimulus bill is also debated.

“The Congressional Budget Office, which is a nonpartisan organization that assists Congress with economic analysis, projects that the bill will actually slow the rate of growth in our economy over the next 10 years,” said Thune.

Because of the reaction the stimulus bill has produced, state legislators have already decided to be accountable when federal stimulus money is available. Worrying about federal stimulus money, however, is not the main issue that has concerned legislators. By approximately March 13, a majority of 105 legislators have to approve one state budget.

“We cannot leave Pierre until we have a balanced budget,” said Vanderlinde. “I do not care if it takes until the middle of June. We can finagle the budget around.”

Upcoming  
Events



- March 6-7 - State Debate in Yankton
- March 6 - Mitchell Show Choir Classic
- March 7 - Girls Basketball Region
- March 10 - Boys Basketball Region
- March 10 - Augie Jazz Band Festival
- March 12-14 - Girls State Basketball in Brookings
- March 17 - Region II Vocal & Ensemble Contest
- March 19-21 - Boys State Basketball in Sioux Falls

- March 21 - Show Choir at Hinton, Iowa
- March 24 - Track - Yankton Relays
- March 26-28 - All State Band in Rapid City
- March 27 - Girls Golf at West Central
- March 28 - Tennis vs. St. Thomas Moore
- March 31 - Sophomore Retreat
- April 2 - Track - Yankton Invite
- April 2 - Girls Golf vs. Brandon Valley





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